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New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 43rd MEETING

Chairman: Mr. TEIRLINCK (Belgium)

Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions: Mr. MSELLE

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The meeting was called to order at 10.20 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 113: HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGEMENT (continued)

(c) RESPECT FOR THE PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES OF OFFICIALS OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND RELATED ORGANIZATIONS (continued) (A/C.5/49/6 and Corr.1 and Add.1, A/C.5/49/56)

1. Mr. SEVAN (Assistant Secretary-General, Office of Conference and Support Services and United Nations Security Coordinator), introducing a note by the Secretary-General on stress management (A/C.5/49/56), said that the occupational stress inherent in the activities of the United Nations system was an issue that could no longer be ignored. Mechanisms needed to be put in place to provide staff with adequate training and support for coping with stressful situations.

2. In view of the link between security incidents and stress, a decision had been taken at the ad hoc inter-agency security meeting, and subsequently, endorsed by the Administrative Committee on Coordination, that the United Nations Security Coordinator should serve as the focal point for developing a stress management strategy. His office had been working with the Office of Human Resources Management and other organizations of the United Nations system to develop such a strategy. The document before the Committee outlined some of the progress that had been made. He would welcome comments by delegations with a view to developing and implementing the strategy, if possible within existing staffing resources.

3. Mr. RAMIREZ (Colombia), noting that the document focused exclusively on critical-incident stress management, wondered whether it could be extended to include the kind of stress that occurred on a daily basis.

(d) OTHER HUMAN RESOURCES QUESTIONS (continued) (A/C.5/49/58)

4. Mr. ZACKLIN (Director, Office of Legal Affairs) introducing a memorandum by the Secretary-General on the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations (A/C.5/49/58), explained that the Executive Chairman of the Special Commission established under Security Council resolution 687 (1991) was not a staff member of the United Nations but devoted most of his time to the work of the Commission. The ambiguity in his status vis-à-vis the authorities of the host country, namely the United States, had made it necessary to clarify the scope of the privileges and immunities to which he was entitled.

5. In similar cases involving the presiding officers of United Nations organs of a continuing nature, where those officers were not members of the Secretariat, the General Assembly had agreed to grant such individuals privileges and immunities under Articles V and VII of the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations. It was understood that Article V contained section 19 dealing with diplomatic privileges and immunities.

6. The Secretary-General proposed that the Executive Chairman of the Special Commission should be granted the privileges and immunities referred to in

Articles V and VII of the Convention and trusted that the Fifth Committee would approve that proposal.

7. Mr. SCOTTI (France) said that legal experts had not yet had time to study the document closely and a decision on the matter should therefore be postponed.

8. The CHAIRMAN said that the Committee would delay a decision on the matter until the following week to allow more time for legal deliberations.

The meeting rose at 10.35 a.m.